

**EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA**

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

TEL: 880-2-883-7150-4

FAX: 880-2-9881677, 9885688

E-MAIL: DhakaPA@state.gov

WEBSITE: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>



PRESS RELEASE

**THE UNITED STATES AND GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH
OPEN NEW COASTAL CRISIS MANAGEMENT CENTER**

DHAKA, MARCH 13 -- Today, in Patenga the U.S. Government, represented by Ambassador Dan Mozena, and the People's Republic of Bangladesh, represented by the Minister of Home Affairs, Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, MP, inaugurated the first of 30 Coastal Crisis Management Centers (CCMC) in Bangladesh. The CCMC development program, a partnership between the United States and Bangladesh, will provide the Bangladesh Coast Guard (BCG) with operational outposts across Bangladesh's vulnerable coastal belt. The CCMCs will serve as command, control, and communications nodes for the Government of Bangladesh in the case of a natural disaster and will enable the BCG to operate in remote areas across the coast, conducting anti-piracy, counter narcotics, anti-smuggling, environmental protection, and other law enforcement activities.

The development of the CCMC program across the coastal belt is a key part of the partnership between the U.S. Government and the Government of Bangladesh to develop humanitarian and disaster relief (HA/DR) capacity in the country's most vulnerable coastal areas. In addition to the more than 500 Multi-Purpose Cyclone Shelters (MPCS) built in partnership with the Government of Bangladesh by the U.S. Government, CCMCs will better enable the Government of Bangladesh to respond to natural disasters, and ensure the protection of Bangladesh's fragile coastal environment.

In addition to working together to help build the CCMCs, the United States will assist the BCG with AIS (Automatic Identification System) shipping identification systems, HF/VHF radios (High Frequency/ Very High Frequency), patrol boats and other maritime safety equipment. The United States also supports training for the BCG and other first responders in Bangladesh focusing on first aid, field sanitation, waterborne disease mitigation and crisis response. The successful completion of this first CCMC highlights the excellent partnership between the United States and Bangladesh in which both partner nations learn from one another to improve humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

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